

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 were pending in the application. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1, 5, 10 and 11 have been amended and Claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Turning to the rejections of the claims, Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over US Patent No. 5,838,596 (Shimomura) in view of US Patent No. 6,549,745 (May). Claims 4, 8, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Shimomura in view of May.

Turning to the specific language of the claim, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a method for simulating the behavior of a flexible medium which is conveyed along a conveying path constructed of a pair of conveyor rollers, the method comprising the steps of defining a contact region of the conveyor rollers where the pair of conveyor rollers contact each other, and a non-contact region of the conveyor rollers where the pair of conveyor rollers do not contact each other, setting a first peripheral speed and a second peripheral speed for the contact region and the non-contact region, respectively, the first and the second peripheral speeds being different from each other, and performing a simulation such that a conveying force corresponding to the difference between the second peripheral speed and a speed of the flexible medium is applied to the flexible medium when the flexible medium reaches the non-contact region of the conveyor rollers, such that the flexible medium is conveyed at the first peripheral speed when the flexible medium reaches the contact region of the conveyor rollers.

Shimomura is not seen to teach the foregoing features of amended independent Claim 1. In particular, Shimomura is not seen to teach or suggest

"setting a first peripheral speed and a second peripheral speed for the contact region and the non-contact region, respectively". While Shimomura teaches the real speed (rotational speed) of a conveyor roller when the copy sheet brought in contact with the conveyor rollers 11, Shimomura is not seen to describe a second peripheral speed of the non-contact region. In accordance with Claim 1, the non-contact region is a region where the pair of conveyor rollers do not contact each other. Shimomura is not seen to specify the speed of a non-contact region where the pair of conveyor rollers do not contact each other. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Shimomura is not seen to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of amended independent Claim 1.

The other applied art, namely May, is not seen to describe a simulation method for simulating the behavior of a flexible medium. Therefore, there is no motivation to combine Shimomura's simulation system with May's teaching. Hence, based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references, namely Shimomura and May, are not seen to teach or suggest the foregoing features of independent Claim 1. Independent Claim 1 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

In addition, amended independent Claims 5 and 10 include substantially similar features as that of amended independent Claim 1, and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1.

The other pending claims remaining under consideration in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

6/7/2007

/Trevor Chuang/

Date

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